
HOUSE BILL 2626

State of Washington

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By Representatives VanDeWege, Kessler, Blake, Takko, DeBolt, Ormsby, Roberts, Kenney, Morrell, Simpson, and Chase

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1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the governor to suspend the waiting
2 week for individuals who are unemployed because of an emergency or
3 disaster; amending RCW 50.20.010; adding a new section to chapter 50.20
4 RCW; creating a new section; providing a contingent expiration date;
5 and declaring an emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 50.20 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) The governor may suspend the waiting period requirement in RCW
10 50.20.010(1)(d) for individuals who are unemployed because of an
11 emergency or disaster as defined in RCW 38.52.010.

12 (2) This section expires on the first Sunday of the first week
13 after the commissioner provides written notice to the governor and the
14 office of the code reviser of a determination that results in an "on"
15 indicator as described in RCW 50.22.010.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 50.20.010 and 2006 c 13 s 10 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

1 (1) An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive waiting
2 period credits or benefits with respect to any week in his or her
3 eligibility period only if the commissioner finds that:

4 (a) He or she has registered for work at, and thereafter has
5 continued to report at, an employment office in accordance with such
6 regulation as the commissioner may prescribe, except that the
7 commissioner may by regulation waive or alter either or both of the
8 requirements of this subdivision as to individuals attached to regular
9 jobs and as to such other types of cases or situations with respect to
10 which the commissioner finds that the compliance with such requirements
11 would be oppressive, or would be inconsistent with the purposes of this
12 title;

13 (b) He or she has filed an application for an initial determination
14 and made a claim for waiting period credit or for benefits in
15 accordance with the provisions of this title;

16 (c) He or she is able to work, and is available for work in any
17 trade, occupation, profession, or business for which he or she is
18 reasonably fitted.

19 (i) With respect to claims that have an effective date before
20 January 4, 2004, to be available for work an individual must be ready,
21 able, and willing, immediately to accept any suitable work which may be
22 offered to him or her and must be actively seeking work pursuant to
23 customary trade practices and through other methods when so directed by
24 the commissioner or the commissioner's agents.

25 (ii) With respect to claims that have an effective date on or after
26 January 4, 2004, to be available for work an individual must be ready,
27 able, and willing, immediately to accept any suitable work which may be
28 offered to him or her and must be actively seeking work pursuant to
29 customary trade practices and through other methods when so directed by
30 the commissioner or the commissioner's agents. If a labor agreement or
31 dispatch rules apply, customary trade practices must be in accordance
32 with the applicable agreement or rules;

33 (d) He or she has been unemployed for a waiting period of one week,
34 except as provided in section 1 of this act;

35 (e) He or she participates in reemployment services if the
36 individual has been referred to reemployment services pursuant to the
37 profiling system established by the commissioner under RCW 50.20.011,
38 unless the commissioner determines that:

1 (i) The individual has completed such services; or
2 (ii) There is justifiable cause for the claimant's failure to
3 participate in such services; and

4 (f) As to weeks beginning after March 31, 1981, which fall within
5 an extended benefit period as defined in RCW 50.22.010, the individual
6 meets the terms and conditions of RCW 50.22.020 with respect to
7 benefits claimed in excess of twenty-six times the individual's weekly
8 benefit amount.

9 (2) An individual's eligibility period for regular benefits shall
10 be coincident to his or her established benefit year. An individual's
11 eligibility period for additional or extended benefits shall be the
12 periods prescribed elsewhere in this title for such benefits.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If any part of this act is found to be in
14 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
15 the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of
16 employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the
17 conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the
18 conflict, and the finding or determination does not affect the
19 operation of the remainder of this act. Rules adopted under this act
20 must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the
21 receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal
22 unemployment tax credits to employers in this state.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
25 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
26 immediately.

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